

Catawba County is among “Top 10 Digital Counties”

by
Dave Hardin



Servers such as these, which access many more “virtual” servers, helped make Catawba County one of the Top 10 Digital Counties.

Catawba County has been named by the Center for Digital Government (CDG) as one of the Top 10 Digital Counties Survey Awards winners among counties across the nation with a population between 150,000 and 249,999 people.

The CDG is a national research and advisory institute focused on IT policies and best practices in state and local government. The survey, conducted annually by CDG and *Government Technology*, in p

partnership with the National Association of Counties, evaluates entrants on their ability to demonstrate successful outcomes through the strategic use of technology.

According to information posted at govtech.com, “Ten winners were named in each of four population-based categories. The winning counties carried out strategies with measurable benefits that aligned with county priorities. Successful programs also showed progress over the previous year, utilized innovative

solutions, and revealed a commitment to collaboration within and outside of their organization. The self-reported survey is judged by a panel of experts.”

Catawba County’s effort to move to “virtual” technology over the last five years has allowed the County to cut its hardware from more than 70 physical servers to 18 physical servers which run more than 300 virtual servers. These virtual servers allowed the County to be far more flexible in its efforts to provide increasing amounts of information and services to the public in the most efficient manner possible. The use of virtual technology was one of the main initiatives featured in Catawba County’s nomination for the award.

“Catawba County strives to provide our citizens with the best services and information possible,” said Terry Bledsoe, the County’s Chief Information Officer. “We listen to citizen needs, look for opportunities, and

constantly improve our services. Being selected as one of the Top 10 Digital Counties affirms that our hard work is paying off.”

The complete announcement about the 2012 Digital Counties Survey Winners may be seen at <http://www.govtech.com/e-government/2012-Digital-Counties-Survey-Winners-Announced.html>

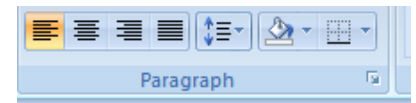
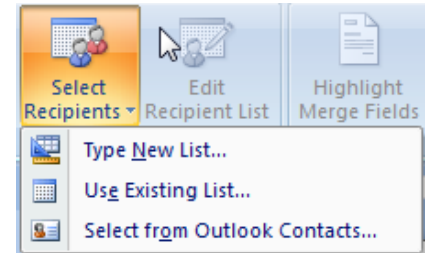
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Creating Labels in Word

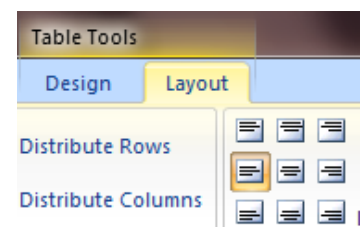
To create labels for a set of people that you either have already typed or will type into a data file, you will use the Mail Merge process. This is a good approach if you will be repeatedly sending out letters to the same set of people.

- Start a new document, Click on **Mailings** tab
- Click on **Start Mail Merge, Labels**
- If asked, pick out the type of label: for Vendor: Avery US Letter, then choose a Product Number. 5160 is a common choice.
- Assuming you have already created the file as an Excel spreadsheet or a Word table, click on **Select Recipients**, then **Use Existing List** and locate that file. If you have not yet created the file with recipients' names and addresses, and you choose Type New List which then creates an Access database. Since most people are not familiar with using Access, we recommend that you create your file, ahead of time in Excel.
- Click on **Edit Recipient List** if you want to be sure you have correct list, or if you want to do a selective merge.
- Insert the Address Block or use Insert merge field to insert specific fields yourself.
- **Preview Results:** Usually the line spacing is not acceptable. While still in Preview mode, select all lines on the first label, and go to Home Tab, look for Paragraph area, and reduce an extra spacing before and after paragraphs to 0.
- Click on **Update Labels** in the **Write & Insert Fields** area to distribute the address block and any new spacing through the labels.
- **Finish & Merge**, Print
- Go back to the label file with all of the codes in it and save it if you would like to use it again.
- Once the merge has been run and a file of labels is created, you can save that file for future printing (if your data doesn't change often), or you can re-merge each time you need labels.



Or maybe you want to create a sheet of labels but you don't want to do the Mail Merge approach:

- Start new document, and then go to **Mailings** Tab.
- Click on **Labels** (Not on Start Mail Merge)
- Leave address area blank, choose Full page of same label, make sure the right label product number is showing, then click on New Document. You will get a full page of blank labels. Type your data by tabbing from label to label.
- If the line spacing on the label is not what you want, go to the Table Tools Layout tab, and center it vertically.



Or to create a sheet of labels that all have the same information, choose **Mailings** Tab, **Labels**, type name and address or whatever it is you want on all the labels, put check next to Full page of same label, then choose New Document.

Formatting labels:

If you want to change the font or size for your labels, select the whole document (either the main merge file or the resulting label file) and choose another font, size etc. To change capitalization, finish the merge, the select all of the data on the label file and choose Home Tab, Change Case tool.



SAFETY IS A STATE OF MIND

Submitted by
Miriam Powell
Risk Manager

KEEP YOUR HOUSE BURGLARY-FREE



According to FBI statistics burglars break into houses, apartments or condos every 11 seconds. And 60 percent of these residential burglaries occurred during the daylight hours.

But there are steps you can take to fend off would-be thieves. "Size up your home the way an intruder would," says Chris McGoey, host of www.crimedoctor.com. This type of examination will help you pinpoint weak spots in your home security.

Here's a checklist of additional ways to keep your home safe from unwelcome guest.

Lighting- inside and out

- * Light up all potential entry points to your house, such as doors and windows (including the basement windows). Consider outdoor motion-detection lights.

- * Use indoor timers that turn lights on and off. You can also use timers for TVs and radios.

Secure doors and windows

- * Choose exterior doors made of solid metal or wood. They offer the most security.
- * Install heavy-duty deadbolt locks on your doors. A single cylinder deadbolt operates with a key from the outside and a thumb turn from the inside. Double cylinder deadbolts operate with keys from both sides and offer an advantage on doors with windows. A burglar who breaks the glass to enter your home can't turn the deadbolt with their hand to open the door.

However, in a fire, these doors might make it difficult to escape since you need a key to open the door from the inside. After Pam Bochenek's house was burglarized in Wheeling, Ill., she reinforced the deadbolt on her door with a metal plate. She also thinks the deadbolt itself wasn't long enough, and that made it easier for the burglar to knock down the door. "The throw bolt should extend at least 1 inch into the doorjamb," McGoey says.

- * Use window locks. Make sure family members can open windows easily in case of an emergency.
- * Close your garage door. An open garage door can be an invitation for others to wander in. Always lock the door to an attached garage.

Vacation time

- * Stop your newspaper delivery and have someone pick up your mail when you're on vacation. Make your home look occupied. To do this, keep some shades and blinds up. Install timers on indoor lights. Keep a car parked in the driveway. Arrange to have your landscaping continued and your driveway and walks shoveled.
- * Use your business address and phone number on your luggage rather than a home address.

Practice home security

- * Close curtains and blinds at night.
- * Lock windows and doors every night.
- * Ask for identification when a stranger shows up at your door.
- * Watch repair people at your house and meter readers outside your home.
- * Trim outside bushes so that a burglar can't hide easily.
- * Ask neighbors to keep an eye out for each other's property.
- * Take photos of valuable possessions, and store these photos in a safe deposit box.
- * Install a monitored home security system. According to ADT Security Services, less than 15 percent of households have a monitored security system.
- * If you return home and find a window or door ajar, go to a neighbor's home and call the police.

CATAWBA COUNTY BUYS RECYCLED

Catawba County encourages all departments to consider products that are environmentally friendly and/or with recycled content. With the assistance of the Information Technology Department, tracking of recycled purchases is made possible through the PeopleSoft Financial System.

Catawba County employees have made a difference! Between July 1, 2010, and June 30, 2011 County employees purchased a total of \$171,218 in recycled content products including general office and janitorial supplies and environmentally friendly chemicals and cleaning products.

We are excited to announce the top two departments for the 2010/11 fiscal year program are:



Melinda Ussery (left) and Sherry Buterbaugh accepted a Buy Recycled Award for Public Health.

Large County department (over 100 employees) is the Public Health Department, with total purchases of environmentally friendly and recycled content products of \$56,400.



Barbara Wager represented the Tax Department to receive the "Buy Recycled" honor.

Small County department (less than 100 employees) is the Tax Department with total purchases of environmentally friendly and recycled content products of \$7,465.

Congratulations to these departments and to all County employees who make the effort every day to think green when procuring items for County use.

Visit Catawba County Online:

Website- www.catawbacountync.gov

Facebook- www.facebook.com/pages/Newton-NC/Catawba-County-North-Carolina/25829482210?v=wall&views=0

Twitter- <http://twitter.com/catawbacounty>

Community Alert System- www.catawbacountync.gov/alert/

Green Team Blog- www.catawbagreen.blogspot.com/

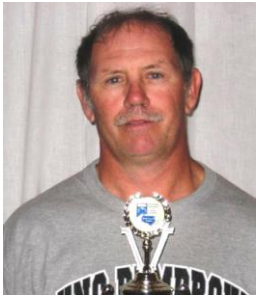
CIO Blog- http://enewletter.catawbacountync.gov/ITC/?page_id=36

Subscribe to County e-newsletter- <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/pubs/subscribe.asp>

Library e-newsletter- <http://enewletter.catawbacountync.gov/library/>

WHAT'S NEW?

Landfill Employee Wins at State Road-E-O



Each year, the North Carolina Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (NCSWANA) hosts an equipment/truck Road-E-O. Contestants representing public and private waste collection agencies compete for top driving, operating and mechanical honors. Drivers and operators are

required to maneuver competition vehicles through a preset course and mechanics are tested in areas of troubleshooting and diagnostics. All categories are judged on accuracy and time. Winners receive trophies, cash awards, and recognition as being the best in their category statewide.

This year's event was held on June 15-16 in Raleigh hosted by NCSWANA, Wake County Solid Waste, City of Raleigh Solid Waste Services, Republic Services of NC, and Waste Industries. More than 100 contestants representing counties, cities, and private waste industries from all parts of the state participated in the competitions.

County employees participating in the events were **Ray Blackburn** competing in the compactor category, **Ken Campbell** competing in the loader category, and **Daniel Isenhour** competing in the dozer category.

Congratulations to **Ray Blackburn**, (pictured above), who placed 3rd in the compactor category!!



Michelle Williams, a Software Systems Engineer with the County's Technology Department, received an Certificate of Appreciation from the North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue for her volunteer work with the Tax Link program, which provides tax return preparation services for low income citizens taxes free of

charge.



Leigh Anne Charles, a dietitian at Catawba County Public Health, was chosen out of 4,200 registered dietitians and registered dietetic technicians in North Carolina to receive the Emerging Dietetic Leader Award from the North Carolina Dietetic Association.

Charles received her dietetic registration in June 2005 and has been with Catawba County Public Health as a registered dietitian since May 2008. She works in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) clinic educating WIC participants on nutrition with a focus on women during pregnancy, post-partum, and breastfeeding, and children from infancy through the age of five.

Charles exemplifies leadership through programs like train-the-trainer, where she showed Prenatal Clinic staff how to use blood glucose meters, which they can in turn show their patients how to use. "This is a service that was not previously available onsite, however, with Leigh Anne's expertise it is now able to be taught onsite," said Julie Byrd, WIC director, Catawba County Public Health. "Leigh Anne is highly motivated in the field of dietetics and seeks out ways to work with the citizens of Catawba County to assist them in leading healthier lives."

Continuing her leadership role, Charles serves as a dietetic internship preceptor for students at local universities and is an active member of the Eat Smart Move More Catawba County coalition. Charles also contributes to the community outside the walls of Catawba County Public Health. In the past year she has presented on nutrition at the North Carolina Dietetic Association's annual conference, Foothills District Dietetic Association, Lenoir-Rhyne University, and Appalachian State University. Furthermore,

Charles has served as president of the Foothills District Dietetic Association and has served as president of the North Carolina Dietetic Association since June 1.

Diversity Activities Calendar

<http://cocatshare01/committees/diversitycom/Documents/CommunityDiversityCalendar.pdf>

WELCOME NEW COUNTY EMPLOYEES!



Melissa Ammons
Protective Services SW
Social Services



Candelaria Aviles
WIC Peer Counselor
Public Health



Roberta Chandler
Detention Officer
Sheriff



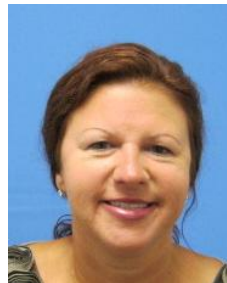
Jadie Baldwin-Hamm
Protective Services SW
Social Services



Diego Florez
Teaching Parent
Social Services



Gregory Holland
Radio Telecommunicator
Communications Center



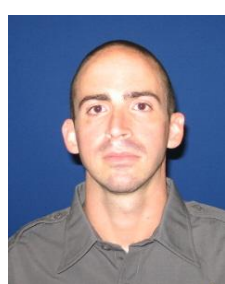
Sandra Huneycutt
Foster Care SW
Social Services



Jason Little
Automotive Mechanic
Finance



Abigail Marquez-Padua
Tax Collection Clerk
Tax



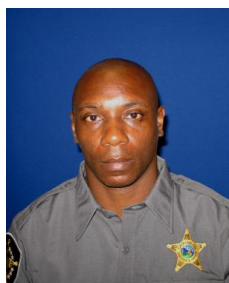
Cory Reid
Deputy Sheriff
Sheriff



Heather Sherrill
Accounting Clerk
Social Services



Sheri Stock
Protective Services SW
Social Services



Michael Watkins
Deputy Sheriff
Sheriff



Philip Yongue
Deputy Sheriff
Sheriff

REPORT ON SOUTHEAST REGIONAL GREEN BUILDING PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTS CATAWBA COUNTY ECO-COMPLEX

by
Dave Hardin

A report on "green" building programs in five southeastern states, supported by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, includes a section on the Catawba County EcoComplex.

"An Analysis of Selected Community Green Building Programs in Five Southeastern States" was conducted by the Southeast Watershed Forum and University of Georgia River Basin Center on behalf of the Southeast Smart Growth Network.

The network is a consortium of over twenty universities, organizations and agencies which, according to the executive summary of the Analysis, "was interested in identifying common features and practices of local and state government efforts that support green building programs.

The objective was to gather a regional snapshot of existing green building programs, the kind of incentives used to encourage them and the cost savings being realized."

Catawba County's Eco-Complex is a system that recovers all useable products and by-products from a group of private and public partners located in a close-knit defined area. This group of partners works together to use each other's waste products either as a source of energy (electricity, steam, or heat) or as a raw material for the production of their own product (pallets, lumber, compost, brick shapes/art). The EcoComplex is also focused on making and using "green" energy and on economic development.

"We are very pleased that our EcoComplex was among only sixteen case studies included in the Analysis of Selected Community Green Building Programs," said Barry Edwards, Utilities and Engineering Director.

"The EcoComplex has previously been honored with national awards for being an innovative project, and we believe it being in the Analysis is another indication that our peers in green technology across the Southeast recognize its value. More importantly, we are always seeking to use the EcoComplex as a tool to help others recycle more of their waste streams and improve their green practices. Having the EcoComplex in the Analysis will help us meet that goal."

The four page section on the Catawba County EcoComplex in the Analysis, written by Amble Johnson, begins with a look at the history of the complex, including its beginning in the conversion of methane gas, produced naturally in landfills, into electricity. Catawba County sells that electricity, which brought in \$688,353 in revenue in 2010, helping the County to keep landfill tipping fees stable.

"This energy recovery facility was the first phase in the development of a regional EcoComplex that would attract certain industries to a central location wherein they could make use of the waste streams of the associated industries as the raw materials for their own products," the Analysis said.

The Analysis discusses the relationship between the first two businesses to locate in the EcoComplex, Gregory Wood Products and Pallet One, which takes the wood waste stream from Gregory Wood Products and turns it into pallets.

The Analysis also profiles the Biodiesel Research Facility opened in 2011 at the EcoComplex and future plans at the complex, including a Biosolids (municipal wastewater sludge) Processing Facility that would replace the County's existing Regional Sludge Management Facility; a Wood Gasification Energy Facility project that would use sawdust and biomaterials to produce heat, electricity and steam energy; and an algae research site to explore the use of algae to create biofuels.

"Maximizing waste reuse aims to serve Catawba County in both ecological and economic arenas by providing businesses with facilities where they can have lower cost access to raw materials and can lower the cost associated with waste disposal," Johnson wrote in the Analysis. "The EcoComplex will ultimately present an array of business and research opportunities from byproducts reuse to alternative energy production."

Scott Millar, president of the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation, is also quoted in the Analysis, regarding the role the EcoComplex plays and will play in economic development.

"The opportunity to sell 100% green power being generated out there has been key in our ability to talk with a number of [business] prospects," Millar said. "We get to talk green-energy credits. We're leading the nation in this category. So we can truly say if you're green, you need to contact Catawba County."

The Executive Summary of the Analysis summarizes by saying, "the focus is on green building, because there are widely acknowledged benefits from green building practices in three general areas. Green building creates healthier homes and workplaces by encouraging the use of safer materials. Green building saves on operating costs by reducing heat loss, reducing energy and water use and encouraging the use of renewable energy sources, like solar or geothermal. And green building protects the environment through low impact development practices and careful siting of buildings to better preserve trees, habitat, nearby water resources."

The entire Analysis may be seen at <http://www.southeastwaterforum.org/files/pdf/GreenBldgRpt2012.pdf>.



by
Tammy Wilson

David Halperin to kick off fall series at library

Catawba County Library in Newton will launch its fall season with talks by four notable North Carolinians.

David Halperin, author of *Journal of a UFO*



Investigator (Viking Press) begins the series at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13. Halperin, a former professor of Jewish history at UNC-Chapel Hill, penned this debut novel based on his own boyhood imaginings. It has been described as "an enchantment from beginning to end" by *Entertainment Weekly* and "gripping" by *Publishers Weekly*.

Archaeological researcher and author Char Solomon will discuss "An Introduction to the Ancient Maya" on Tuesday, Oct. 2. She is part of the Road Scholars

program of public speakers sponsored by N.C. Humanities Council, a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Solomon of Concord has lectured on and researched the Mayan culture extensively. She has worked as an archaeological field assistant and has published a biography of a leading female archaeologist, *Tatiana Proskouriakoff: Interpreting the Ancient Maya*.

Karen Reynolds, executive director of the Tom Dooley



outdoor drama in Wilkesboro, will visit the library on Nov. 8 for a reading from her book, *Tom Dooley, The Story Behind the Ballad*, (Little Creek Books). Reynolds has also written six plays including the Tom Dooley drama, now in its 11th season. She is a member of the Institute of Outdoor Drama at East Carolina University.

Marjorie Hudson, author of the acclaimed story



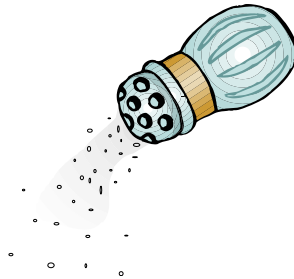
collection, *Accidental Birds of the Carolinas* (Press 53), will share her work on Dec. 4. Absorbing her experiences of living in the South for the past 20 years, Hudson previously visited the library in 2005 to share her earlier book, *Searching for Virginia Dare*. She was recently honored as a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award for first fiction book.

All of the programs are free and open to the public, compliments of Friends of Catawba County Library. The authors will have books available for sale and signing.

(see Library News, pg. 11)



This month's Online Learning
"Be Sodium Savvy"



Sodium is NOT just from your salt shaker. Learn ways to reduce sodium in your diet.

First 100 to complete the Online Learning between now and July 31, 2012 will receive FREE
Mrs. Dash seasoning samples!

View this month's Online Learning by clicking link below:

http://catawbaorg/Intranet/benefits/wellness/SodiumSavvy_files/frame.htm



Food Safety Begins at Home

by
Glennie Daniels

Safe food is essential to life. Safe food is food that poses little risk of causing food borne illness. Farmers, food processors, and retail food workers have a legal obligation to keep food safe, but consumers are also responsible for keeping their food safe. This is especially important in the summertime when picnics, camping trips, reunions, and other large events often take place outside in hot temperatures.

Eating food that contains harmful microorganisms can cause food borne illness. Eating even a small portion of an unsafe food can make a person sick. Signs and symptoms can appear almost instantaneously or might not develop for up to two weeks. Most food borne illnesses last a few hours or days. Some have effects that can last for weeks, months, or even years.

Many factors contribute to the more than 48 million cases of food borne illness that are estimated to occur each year in the United States. Adults age 65 and older and children age 5 and younger have the highest incidence of food borne illness, but anyone with a compromised immune system is at high risk.

There are four basic steps to food safety: clean, separate, cook, and chill. Begin by washing hands and food contact surfaces often. Microorganisms can spread throughout the kitchen and get onto cutting boards, utensils, counter tops and food. To ensure that your hands and surfaces are clean, wash hands in warm soapy water before and after handling food and after

using the bathroom, changing diapers or handling pets. Wash cutting boards, dishes, utensils and counter tops with hot soapy water after preparing each food item and before going on to the next food. Consider using paper towels to clean up kitchen surfaces. If you choose to use cloth towels, wash them often in the hot water cycle of the washing machine. Wash produce. Rinse fruits and vegetables, and rub firm-skin fruits and vegetables under running tap water including those with skins and rinds that are not eaten. Remember to clean lids of canned goods before opening.

Separate, don't cross-contaminate. Cross-contamination occurs when microorganisms are spread from one food product to another. The key is to keep raw foods away from ready to eat food. Separate raw meat, poultry, seafood and eggs from other foods in your grocery cart, grocery bags and in your refrigerator. If you have reusable shopping bags, it's a good idea to have one dedicated to holding meats. Wash reusable bags regularly. Use one cutting board for fresh produce and a separate one for raw meat, poultry, and seafood. Never place cooked food on a plate that previously held raw meat without first washing the plate in hot soapy water. Don't reuse marinades used on raw foods unless you bring them to a boil first.

Cook foods to proper temperatures. Use a USDA recommended temperature chart to determine correct temperatures. Information can be accessed at www.fsis.usda.gov. Always use a food thermometer to measure the internal temperature of cooked foods. Color of food is not a reliable indicator of safety or doneness. Bring sauces, soups and gravy to a boil when reheating. Heat leftovers to 165°F. Reheat hot dogs, luncheon meats, bologna, and other deli meats until steaming hot.

Refrigerate foods promptly. Cold temperatures slow the growth of harmful microorganisms. Keeping a constant refrigerator temperature of

40°F or below is one of the most effective ways to reduce risk of food borne illness. Use an appliance thermometer to be sure the refrigerator temperature is correct. Refrigerate or freeze meat, poultry, eggs, seafood and other perishables within 2 hours of cooking or purchasing. Refrigerate within 1 hour if the temperature outside is above 90°F. Never thaw food at room temperature. The safest place to thaw food is in the refrigerator. Divide large amounts of leftovers into shallow containers for quicker cooling in the refrigerator.

If you have food safety questions contact "Ask Karen" at www.fsis.usda.gov; send email inquiries to mph hotline.fsis@usda.gov or call 1-888-674-6854. Of course, you can always contact your local family and consumer sciences agent.

SPIRIT CLASSIFIEDS

HOPE (HELP OUR PEOPLE EAT) GARDEN PROJECT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS:

The Western North Carolina Epilepsy Association (WNCEA) needs your help to prepare and harvest gardens to share fresh vegetables and fruit with the hungry at WNCEA, Hickory Soup Kitchen, ECCCM, Meals On Wheels, Hickory Y students, etc. in Catawba County. For more info., visit <http://catawbahope.wordpress.com> or contact Christine S. Cofer, 828-312-8298, cchope2012@gmail.com

COMPUTER REPAIR: For all your computer repair needs, call Terry at 465-1464 or 446-6116. Over 10 yrs experience.

AUTOMOBILE FOR SALE: 2000 Toyota MR2 Spyder convertible - Silver with black top. 137,000 miles. Gas saver, 37 mpg. \$5800. (828) 302-7493.

CONDO FOR RENT: Quail Run Condo. 3 bedrooms / 2 full baths. Approx. 1100 square feet. Private deck. Pool and lake access. Good storage space. No pets. \$675 month – with a \$500 deposit. References required. Call 828-261-6856 if interested.

FIREARMS SERVICES: Gun auctions, FFL transfers, firearm sales, refinishing, gunsmithing. Pistol transfer is \$20, long gun is \$25. Contact Dale Bentley at 828-615-7411, 302-5812 or dbentley@tacticalweaponssupply.net.

HOUSE FOR RENT: For Rent, 3br, 2ba house in Conover, fenced backyard with shed, great neighborhood. \$850.00 per month For more info call Rick Reed at 828-310-6988.

Library news (cont. from pg. 8)

The Main Library is located at 115 West C Street in Newton.

Library tells Ready to Learn schedule

As the school year begins, Catawba County Library's Ready to Learn sessions are gearing up to help future students excel. Ready to Learn story times for ages 5 and younger will use this schedule:

NEWTON—5 p.m. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. Wednesdays & Thursdays. Also 10 a.m. First Saturday, Aug. 4.

CLAREMONT—Fridays 11 a.m.

CONOVER—Tuesdays & Saturdays 11 a.m.

MAIDEN—9:30 a.m. Thursdays

ST. STEPHENS—Tuesdays at 6 p.m. and 10 a.m. both Wednesdays and Thursdays

SHERRILLS FORD—10 a.m. Wednesdays. Music Time 10 a.m. Thursdays

SOUTHWEST—10 a.m. Wednesdays and 11 a.m. Thursdays

A year ago, the County library system began offering more story times—doubling and tripling the number according to branch—and also enhanced the quality of the sessions as a result of a focus of the library strategic plan.

Formal lesson plans are developed by librarians emphasize specific concepts that young children need to succeed in school. These concepts include colors, sizes, emotions, opposites, rhyming, numbers, shapes and patterns. Meanwhile, parents and caregivers will be offered tips to emphasize the concepts and enhance their own reading time with children.

Dramas round out Summer Reading at library

Live productions of “Sleeping Beauty” are adding sparkle to the final weeks of the 2012 Summer Reading program.

There's still time to meet Prince Charming and Princess Aurora. Green Bean Players will present the popular fairy tale on Saturday, July 28 at 10 a.m. at Conover and 12:30 p.m. at Claremont. The troupe will appear following Saturday, Aug. 4 for show times at 10 a.m. Maiden and 2 p.m. St. Stephens. All performances are family-friendly, free and open to the public.

Due to limited space at Maiden, attendees should contact the branch to pre-register. Stop by the branch or call 428-2712.

The troupe is affiliated with the Green Room in Newton, and has performed for library audiences for a number of years.

These productions are made possible through the generosity of Friends of Catawba County Library. Summer Reading is the annual literacy initiative to encourage reading by young people under age 18 while school is not in session.

CATAWBA COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES SCHEDULES RABIES VACCINATION CLINICS

Catawba County Animal Services will continue a series of rabies vaccination clinics on Saturday, August 4, 2012. All clinics will again be held on Saturdays in 2012 and spread out over more of the year in hopes of making clinics convenient for more citizens. All pets brought to these clinics will receive a one-year rabies vaccination.

The Catawba County Animal Shelter also provides the same one year rabies vaccinations to pet owners year round, Monday through Friday between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

"North Carolina law states that, in all counties where a campaign of vaccination such as our clinics is being conducted, it is the duty of the owner of every dog, cat and ferret over four months of age to have them vaccinated for rabies," said Mark Pettit, Interim Animal Services Manager. "Pet owners face a \$50 fine if they do not have pets vaccinated. Tags showing proof of the vaccination of dogs must be placed on the dog's collar. Cat and ferret owners must be able to show proof of a current vaccination in the form of a rabies certificate."

Rabies is a very dangerous disease that infects only mammals and is spread by infected animals through bites, saliva or cerebral spinal fluid. While it is mainly carried by wild animals, any pets that aren't vaccinated are at great risk if they come in contact with an infected animal. Rabies is a fatal virus which attacks the central nervous system. That's why it's so important for pet owners across Catawba County to take advantage of these clinics.

A fee of \$5, which is unchanged from last year, will be charged for each vaccination. The fee is set to recoup the cost of the vaccine.

Here is the schedule for the remaining clinics, all on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 12 Noon

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| August 4 | Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue Base, 4011 Slanting Bridge Road, Sherrills Ford |
| September 1 | St. Stephens Dog Park, 2247 36th Ave NE, Hickory, NC 28601 |

"All dogs must be on a leash and under control of the dog owner, at all times, at the Rabies Clinic sites. All cats must be in a carrier for the safety and security of the cat," Pettit added.

For more information on the County's 2012 Rabies Vaccination Clinics, you may call the Catawba County Animal Shelter at 828-464-7686.

CATAWBA COUNTY SPIRIT

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